(c) Due to rapid growth of population, urbanisation and improved standards of living, the demand of water has considerably increased. Various schemes, particularly storage schemes have already been completed with a view to reduce the gap between demand and availability. The live storage capacity created so far is about 177 BCM. Additional storage capacity of 75 BCM will be created on completion of projects which are under various stages of construction. Proposals for additional projects are also under formulation/consideration for creation of storage capacity of 132 BCM. To accelerate creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation benefits Programme (AIBP). Government of India is also promoting rainwater harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rainwater harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis. For meeting future requirements of water, as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers.

Renewal of ground water resources

1782. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any perspective plan exists at national level for conservation and renewal of ground water resources to prevent possible water famine in the first quarter of the 21st century; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The National Water Policy adopted by Government of India in the year 2002 envisages that exploitation of ground water resources should be so

regulated as not to exceed the recharging possibilities. It further envisages that the detrimental environmental consequences of over-exploitation of ground water need to be effectively prevented by the Central and State Governments and ground water recharge projects should be developed and implemented for improving the availability of ground water resources. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources has prepared a report entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater", which envisages recharge of 36453 Million Cubic Metre volume of surplus monsoon run-off, through construction of 39.25 lakh artificial recharge and roof top rain water harvesting structures. The report also outlines broad framework about feasibility of these recharge structures in various parts of the country. This report is a conceptual document. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for "Artificial Recharge to Groundwater and Rain Water Harvesting" at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 crore has also been proposed for approval for Tenth Plan.

Depletion of water level in Ahirwal in southern Haryana

†1783. SHRI D. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the constant depletion in ground water level in Ahirwal region of southern Haryana;

(b) whether Government are in a position to evolve any policy regarding the non-implementation of SYL Canal by the State Government;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. The ground water level data monitored by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) indicates average decline ranging 20-40 cm/year in parts of Rewari, Mahendergarh and Gurgaon districts of Ahirwal region of Southern Haryana.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.